

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The instant amendment places the case in the same condition as when last acted upon in the parent application. The amendment also inserts the cross reference to the parent application.

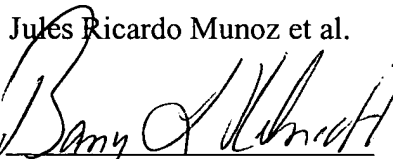
An early action on the merits is requested.

A check in the amount of \$1,028.00 is enclosed to cover the cost of the filing fee and the extra independent claims. Should the Commissioner determine that an additional fee is due, he is hereby authorized to charge said fee to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

Jules Ricardo Munoz et al.

By



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Date: December 9, 2003

I, Nicole Motzer, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on **December 9, 2003**.



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